

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024553
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 EA-12
PRS-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
- MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
EA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
EA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----095372 310223Z /41

O 310032Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 30

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 30,
1978.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO
THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER ON THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS?
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A. NO. I CAN'T COMMENT ON WHATEVER THE PRESIDENT MAY
HAVE SENT TO ANOTHER PRIME MINISTER OR PRESIDENT. INsofar
AS THE GENERAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS
IS CONCERNED, THAT IS CLEAR. IT DOESN'T NEED ME TO
RESTATE, AND IT HAS NOT CHANGED. BUT, FRANKLY, INsofar
AS A COMMENT ON A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER, I AM IN THE
UNFORTUNATE POSITION OF HAVING A PRESIDENTIAL PRESS
CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THAT THE ISRAELIS
RENEGED ON A PROMISE THAT THEY MADE?

A. I, AGAIN, AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO WHAT MAY
OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SAID BY MR. BEGIN TO MR. CARTER OR

MR. CARTER TO MR. BEGIN, AND I REALLY HAVE NO COMMENT ON
THAT OBSERVATION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THERE IS A NEW
SETTLEMENT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE SEEN ON REPORTS OF A SETTLEMENT AT SHILOH.

Q. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN.

A. SIMPLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME KIND OF CONSTRUCTION WORK THERE, JUST TO THAT EXTENT.

Q. IS THAT JUST A SINGLE SETTLEMENT THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT?

A. THAT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT I HAVE ANYTHING ON AT THIS TIME. I MEAN BY THAT, THAT IS ALL I KNOW ABOUT. I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT IT IS AN AUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT.

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Q. DID AMBASSADOR LEWIS DELIVER THE MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN?

A. I'M NOT EVEN SURE OF THE FORM OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE LETTER, OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Q. WAS IT A LETTER, BECAUSE THE STORY SAID IT WAS AN ORAL MESSAGE?

A. COMMUNICATION, YES. OBVIOUSLY, IT HAD TO BE WRITTEN FORM, IN SOME WAY OR THE OTHER; BUT I REALLY CAN'T GO INTO EVEN THAT PART OF IT.

Q. WHEN YOU SAID AN "AUTHORIZED" SETTLEMENT, COULD IT BE THAT THIS IS UNAUTHORIZED? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, THAT THIS IS BEING DONE WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT?

A. I THINK THAT THERE ARE TECHNICAL TERMS THAT ARE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS TO THOSE THINGS WHICH THEY HAVE HAD ON THE DRAWING BOARD AS A MATTER OF PLANNING, EITHER WITHIN MILITARY POSITIONS OR NOT; AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NO AUTHORIZED PLACE AT SHILOH FOR A SETTLEMENT.

Q. THE ISRAELIS SAY THAT IT IS AN ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG. YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT? YOU BELIEVE IT'S SOMETHING MORE?

A. I FRANKLY DON'T HAVE A BELIEF ON THE SUBJECT. I SIMPLY AM TELLING YOU THAT I HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT AN ORGANIZATION IN ISRAEL CONSIDERS IT TO BE THE START OF A SETTLEMENT WORK.

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Q. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THAT THE SETTLEMENT COULD BE APPROVED AT SHILOH WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF MR. BEGIN? SOME OF THE REPORTS WERE SAYING THAT IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT MR. BEGIN APPROVED IT OR NOT.

A. OF COURSE, WE HAVE SEEN SETTLEMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN ISRAEL IN THE PAST WHICH WERE NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, DIFFICULTIES AROSE BECAUSE THEY WERE. BUT I REALLY AM, AGAIN ON THIS PARTICULAR SETTLEMENT, NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID.

Q. IS THERE A COMMITMENT BY MR. BEGIN TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEW SETTLEMENTS?

A. AGAIN ON THAT, I WOULD HAVE TO REFER WHATEVER COMMITMENTS MAY HAVE MADE OR MR. CARTER MAY HAVE MADE BACK AND FORTH -- TO ONE OF THOSE TWO MEN. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THOSE.

Q. BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED IN ONE OF HIS NEWS CONFERENCES THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH COMMITMENT.

A. YES. YOU SEE, WE HAVE TO GET THE TEXT OUT HERE ON WHAT HE SAID ON THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS. I REMEMBER HE SAID A NUMBER OF THINGS IN A PRESS CONFERENCE -- IN LATE SUMMER? I CAN'T EVEN RECALL NOW -- ON THE SETTLEMENT QUESTION. I DON'T HAVE THAT IN FRONT OF ME, AND I HESITATE TO TRUST MY MEMORY OR YOURS AS TO PRECISELY WHAT HE SAID.

Q. HE SAID THAT MR. BEGIN DID NOT MAKE ANY PROMISES.

A. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT WHOLE TRANSCRIPT BEFORE I TRY TO COMMENT ON IT.

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Q. ON THE SADAT VISIT, DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE DETAILS, HOW LONG HE'LL BE STAYING?

A. NO. AGAIN, I THINK I'M WHERE WE WERE SATURDAY. THE BEST THAT I CAN GIVE YOU IS STILL A FRIDAY ARRIVAL. THE LAST THINGS THAT I HAVE SEEN ON THAT SUBJECT ARE THAT

EVEN THE EXACT DETAILS OF WHEN HE WOULD GO UP TO CAMP DAVID HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY TIED DOWN. THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THE WEEKEND MEETING UP THERE, BUT EXACTLY WHAT HOUR OR WHAT DAY HE WOULD GO UP, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IS SETTLED. INsofar AS WHAT HE DOES AFTERWARDS, THAT IS TO SAY AFTER THE WEEKEND, THAT, TOO, AS OF THE LAST THING I SAW THIS MORNING, WAS NOT AT ALL TIED DOWN. HE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WILL BE LEAVING SOMETIME WEDNESDAY.

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE JANUARY 27 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

Q. WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE RECENTLY INCREASED SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA?

A. WE HAVE NOTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON SAUDI TROOP CONCENTRATION ALONG THE PDry BORDER? DO YOU HAVE ANY REPORTS ON CLASHES IN THAT AREA?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT REPORTS OF MOVEMENTS OF THE SAUDI FORCES NORMALLY STATIONED IN THE SOUTHERN UNCLASSIFIED

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AREAS NEAR THE PDry BORDER. SOME APPEAR AS NORMAL ROTATIONS; WE WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE THEM AS "TROOP CONCENTRATIONS." WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF CLASHES IN THE AREA.

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